



America's Marine Highways

U.S. Department of Transportation

Mission: To lead the development and expansion of America's Marine Highway system and to facilitate its integration into the U.S. surface transportation system.

Legislation: Established by Section 1121 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and amended in Section 405 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012.

Vision: The full integration of Marine Highway vessels and ports into the surface transportation system to ensure that reliable, regularly scheduled, competitive, and sustainable services are a routine choice for shippers.



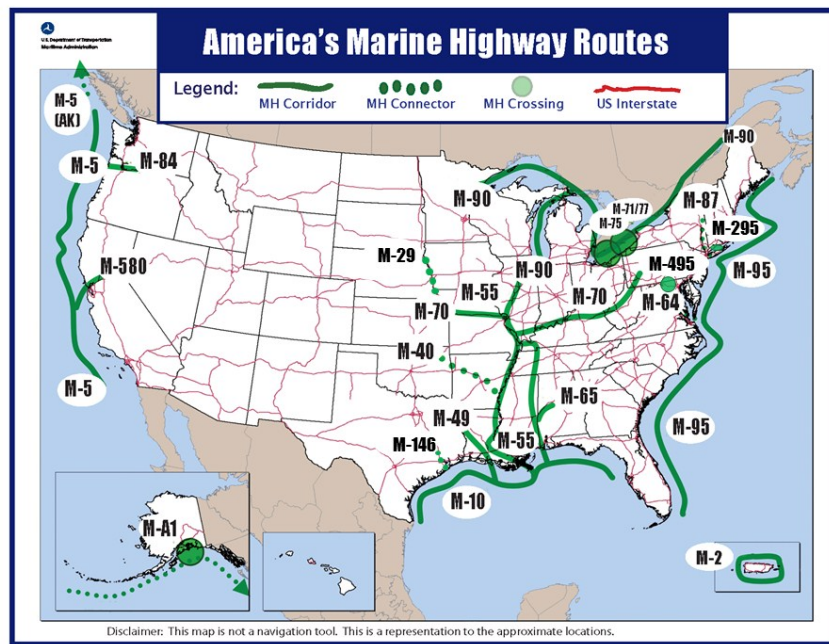
Description:

America's Marine Highway System consists of over 29,000 nautical miles of navigable waterways including rivers, bays, channels, the Great Lakes, the Saint Lawrence Seaway System, coastal, and open-ocean routes.

Public benefits include:

- Creating and sustaining jobs on U.S. vessels and in U.S. ports and shipyards;
- Increasing the state of good repair of the U.S. transportation system by reducing maintenance costs from wear and tear on roads and bridges;
- Increasing our nation's economic competitiveness by adding new, cost-effective freight and passenger transportation capacity and reducing landside congestion;
- Increasing the environmental sustainability of the U.S. transportation system by using less energy and reducing air emissions (such as greenhouse gases) per passenger or ton-mile of freight moved. Further environmental sustainability benefits come from the mandatory use of modern engine technology on designated projects;
- Increasing public safety and security by providing alternatives for the movement of hazardous materials outside heavily populated areas;
- Increasing transportation system resiliency and redundancy by providing transportation alternatives during times of disaster or national emergency;
- Increasing national security by adding to the nation's strategic sealift resources.





Marine Highway Routes:

- Serve as extensions of the surface transportation system.
- Follow established navigable waterways and shipping lanes.
- Are commercially navigable coastal, inland, and intracoastal waters of the United States or connections between U.S. ports on those waterways, described in terms of the specific landside transportation routes (road or rail line) that they supplement or connect. They also include routes between U.S. and Canadian ports on the Great Lakes– Saint Lawrence Seaway System.
- Designated by the Secretary of Transportation as having the potential to benefit the public by providing additional transportation capacity as a part of the surface transportation system.

Marine Highway Projects:

- Projects are designated by the Secretary of Transportation through “Calls for Project” in the Federal Register.
- Each has the potential to offer public benefits and long-term sustainability without long-term Federal support.
- Each receives preferential treatment for any future federal assistance from the Department of Transportation and MARAD.
- Each has the potential to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion along surface corridors as well as provide jobs for skilled mariners and shipbuilders.



For additional information, please e-mail the Office of Marine Highways and Passenger Services at mh@dot.gov or go to http://www.marad.dot.gov/ships_shipping_landing_page/mhi_home/mhi_home.htm.